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Z\*NET INTERNATIONAL ATARI ONLINE MAGAZINE  
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Publisher/Editor: Ron Kovacs  
Editors: John Nagy, Jon Clarke

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\* CompuServe: 75300,1642    \* Delphi: ZNET    \* GENie: Z-Net \*

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THE EDITORS DESK

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by Ron Kovacs

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We has some of your staff gone??

I have been receiving some requests for columns which have appeared regularly here. Those include; Software Shelf, Captain Midnight, Z\*Net Canada, Z\*Net Germany, Z\*Net New Zealand and others... Here is an update on some of our staff....

Ron Berinstein, author of the Software Shelf is currently expanding his pasta warehouse in California. As soon as things are settled down a bit, he will return.

Drew Kerr, author of Captain Midnight and other feature columns is also working very hard behind the scenes right now. As owner of Four Corners Communications, a public relations firm in New York City, he is hard at work assisting Z\*Net and his regular clients and as soon as he get's a break in the action, he will be once again submitting material.

Z\*Net Canada's Terry Schreiber is wading through problems with his modem

as we speak, and during a conversation earlier this week, he was hoping to get his FNET Node up by the weekend. Node 505 has been down for about a week for those in FNET curious of his status. He is also working on a number of stories which are not yet ready for publication.

Keith Macnutt, former Public Domain Update author has left the staff.

John Nagy. Well he has never left!! The information we process each week is edited by John and occasionally he finds the time to write original material. In case you have been asleep for the last few months, John is the Editor of AtariUser Magazine which takes up alot of his free time, however, he is still around editing and contributing to this publication even though his name isn't tied to a specific column.

Jon Clarke is hard at work developing Z\*Net projects in New Zealand. His accomplishments so far have been getting an FNET node up in NZ, focusing on the piracy problems in his area, working at a real job, and other projects yet to be announced. His continuing world tour articles will appear shortly.

That's the Z\*Net update for now. Stay tuned for details!

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Z\*NET NEWSWIRE

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CDAR505 TO SHIP IN SEPTEMBER!

Atari plans formal introduction and release of the ST BOOK and probably other products (including the long awaited CDAR505 CD-ROM player) at COMDEX in Los Vegas, October 21-25. The CDAR505 is not quite as predicted--it won't even work on an ST machine as shipped. Instead of having the ACSI/DMA port and a SCSI port as announced, it will have only the "pure SCSI" port that is the industry standard. It'll plug right into a TT or a MAC, or any computer that has a SCSI host adaptor. So ST owners will need to use an ICD or other host unit to access the CD player. Not a major problem, but certainly a disincentive. Price will be "under \$499" as things look now, and they will in fact arrive in quantity, for sale, FCC Type B approved, by the end of September.

UNIX GURU FINISHES JOB

UNIX was shown on the TT at Dusseldorf and now seems ready to fly. According to some, it will be a \$2,000 package which will include a huge hard drive. Exact pricing and details are not out yet. A scare rumor that the head of the UNIX project had left Atari are misleading. David Plummer, leader in the project of porting the UNIX kernel to the Atari, has indeed given notice. However, he was brought in for the purposes of the project, and now has completed the project. He's moving on to other challenges, leaving the maintenance work to a qualified staff at Atari. Many industry observers see affordable UNIX as the only way Atari will break into the workstation marketplace, vital to mass sales of TT computers.

ATARI VISITS SAN LEANDRO CLUB

Although Atari President Greg Pratt was scheduled to speak and was unable to attend, Bob Brodie dragged a host of Atari personalities to a meeting of the San Leandro Atari Computer Club in Northern California last week. Speaking were VP of Sales Don Mandell, Developer Support man Bill Rehbock, Tech department gurus John Townsend and Mike Fulton, and of course, Bob. They spoke to nearly 100 members of SLACC, DACE, and STACE clubs who gathered for the event. Members were treated to an up-close look at both the ST BOOK and STylus, pre-release samples of technology soon to come from Atari. A good time was had by all!

#### GREG PRATT AND JACK TRAMIEL AT TRIAL

The Federated Trial is progressing, and Atari President Greg Pratt and Chairman of the Board Jack Tramiel are in Los Angeles this month for the proceedings. At issue is the alleged fraudulent presentation of the Federated Group chain of appliance and electronics stores. Atari claims that the value and debt position of the Federated Group was misrepresented when Atari bought the chain several years ago. Last year, Atari liquidated the remaining stores and took a substantial loss. If fraud is found, Atari can expect a multi-million dollar judgement against the old Federated owners and/or their accounting firm.

#### FSM GDOS BY OCTOBER 1

Packaging is all that remains to make FSM GDOS ready for market, according to sources in Atari. The new type manager system for Atari will give scalable, rotatable outline font technology to dozens of existing applications, and a new level of quality output for others. Long delayed, the last touches are now said to be done. A last minute debate raged between adding features requested by several major developers, but it was found that the changes were mutually exclusive. To add bezier curve functions would have "broken" FSM GDOS on many more standard uses. Look for announcements of availability and pricing SOON.

#### ATARI RELEASES POWERBASIC

Sunnyvale -- Atari Computer Corporation announced the release of PowerBASIC(tm) for the Portfolio Palmtop Computer. Within the swelling wake of continued growth and support for the Portfolio, a PC-based portable computer weighing less than one pound, commercial and amateur programmers now have a powerful programming environment specifically designed to take advantage of the Portfolio's versatility and features. Author, Bob Zale, famed for his release of the desktop PC-based PowerBASIC, worked closely with Atari engineers and marketing personnel to refine a development package which offers tremendous flexibility. The source code generated by PowerBASIC is compatible to the compilers on desktop systems, and in fact, may be created on desktop editors for the convenience of long-term programming sessions. The full-range of commands include support of graphics, file management, and advanced mathematic operands. Users may also use PowerBASIC to make direct BIOS calls as detailed by Atari's Technical Reference Guide. Developers for the Portfolio have found existing desktop-based development packages to be quite functional and useful. Now, with PowerBASIC, addressing Portfolio's specific features is fast, fun and easy. PowerBASIC is a compiler and offers the ability to create run files. PowerBASIC owners are entitled to distribute the run-time library, which operates ingeniously as a TSR, with their products. Also included are sample programs and demos as well as information for serious developers to obtain even greater development support packages. In the spirit of Atari's tradition of providing exceptional products at the lowest price,

PowerBASIC sports a manufacturer's suggested price of only \$99.95. It is available at better Portfolio retailers. The suggested retail of the Portfolio computer is only \$299.95. The Atari Portfolio palmtop computer is supported on CompuServe Information Service and GENie with thousands of forum members and hundreds of file downloads. Atari Computer Corporation is a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of palmtop through desktop computer systems. The company, a division of Atari Corporation (AMEX:ATC), sells its systems, peripherals and software through authorized distributors, resellers and integrators. For more information, contact Don Thomas, Computer Marketing Director, Atari Computer Corporation, 1196 Borregas Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089-1302; (408) 745-2031. Atari is a registered trademark; Portfolio is a trademark of Atari Corporation. PowerBASIC is a trademark of Spectra Publishing.

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DUSSELDORF GOES ATARI

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Eyewitness Report Exclusive for Z\*Net  
by Bob Brodie, Director of Communications, Atari Corp.

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For the fourth year, Atari has hosted the world's largest Atari Fair at the Dusseldorf Messe. This year's fair ran from August 23-25 in Dusseldorf, Germany. The gigantic Duesseldorf Messe ("fairgrounds") halls held over 20,000 square meters of show space for the event utilizing two separate halls for the event. This roughly translates to over 180 exhibitors at the show, many with very large booths. Atari themselves had over 60 displays in their exhibition area.

This year for the first time, Atari made provisions to have developers from North America in booths at the show. Bringing their products over for the show were CodeHead Software, D.A. Brumleve, Double-Click, JMG Software, and Wuz-Tek. Other North American developers were at the show as well, but were showing their wares in their distributors booths, or their own. This includes developers like Gribnif Software, FAST Technology, ISD, Gadgets by Small, and ICD.

The Atari Messe is quite literally the biggest Atari show in the world. Last years attendance was set at 42,000. This year, the final count has not been announced, although many feel that the show was perhaps 20% slower than in years previous. However, in checking with exhibitors and Atari Germany, sales figures didn't bear that out. Atari Germany felt that the different layout of the hall this year that resulted in wider aisles made the show seem not nearly as busy, but much easier to navigate the show. Atari Germany seemed very pleased that their market is now beginning to move to a different type of user--this year's show had a lot less of the phreaks, hackers, and pirates that have been at other Atari Messe's. This year, the type of client at the show seemed to be a more professional user.

As in years past, the show also featured a number of different seminars for the attendees to enjoy. Among the many seminars given were Portfolio Telecommunications, DTP-the 2nd Generation, Programming with Omnikron products, Using 1st Base, SCSI usage, Multi-tasking and virtual memory, programming the XL/XE, Database applications, addressing the math coprocessor, Overscan, MIDI with the Portfolio, Using Notator 3.0

in Opera, Multimedia Publishing, Music Software demonstrations, and Using the 68040.

In going to this show, Atari US had some specific goals in mind: first and foremost, they wanted to continue to "build the bridge" between the US and Europe. Convinced that many people were overlooking North American developers, Atari provided exposure to the world for the North Americans in the hope that they would acquire international distribution. Further, Atari has long recognized that there are some outstanding applications across Europe, that need to be brought over to North America. In the past, this was apparently very difficult to do. However, this time around, Atari found the going much easier. In almost every case when Atari US representatives spoke to a software company, there was great interest on their part to getting their products represented in North America.

I took special time to introduce myself to the European Atari media that was present at the show. I enjoyed speaking to them thoroughly, and they were quite willing to go over and visit with our North American developers. This will hopefully lead into some German reviews being written about products like MaxiFile, Kid Publisher Pro, HyperLINK, DC Novetalk, STalker/STeno, and DEKA. I spent time with XEST, ST Magazin's editor Hartmut Ulrich, and TOS magazine publisher Horst Brandl. In many cases, arrangements were made for review copies to be provided, and more than once I heard the phrase "Who is your representative here in Europe?"

DMC, the producers of CALAMUS, were showing their latest module for CALAMUS S/L, a multimedia package that works with a CODE-A-CHROME interface box for a digital frame grabber. The frame grabber inputs into Calamus S/L at 16 bit color/greyscales. 24 bit color digitizing is next on the horizon for Calamus S/L! The results were amazing! The staff of DMC would be demonstrating their product, with a digital camera mounted at the top of the large screen monitor. When they got to a point that they needed to import an image, they simply digitized the crowd standing behind the monitor, and immediately imported the image into Calamus. The results are true magazine quality instant photos.

Double Click Software was showing their DC NoveTalk. This is an ST the capability to run a real Novell network while they are running a PC emulator on their ST. These guys from Houston were showing the product with a STacy with an AT-Speed board installed in it. The product occupies that cartridge port on the ST computers, and is said to provide a Local Talk capability under TOS for ST users to network with Mega STEs and TT's.

At least three German companies were showing their own networking solutions: PAMS Net, Riebel (being shown in Atari Germany's booth) and BioNet. Each are true ethernet compatible networks.

Dave and Sandy Small aren't just showing Spectre GCR now. Now they are getting into the accelerator business with their Gadgets by Small SST. This 68030 device not only completely replaces the ST's 68000, but also adds additional ram capabilities to the system as well. Up to 12 megs of ram can be added.

One of the great cries that Atari US has heard is "Now that there are VME busses in your computers, when will you have graphics cards?" I'm pleased to state that we saw several more at the show. In addition to the MATRIX card and the AlberTT card, which Atari is quite familiar

with, we found at least three other graphics cards. All of these cards had a variety of capabilities, and costs. For example, the IMAGINE Farbgrafikkarte had the following capabilities:

320x200	256 colors
640x480	256 colors
800x600	256 colors
1024x768	256 colors
1280x1024	16 colors

In addition to the resolutions, the product also came with a long list of compatible software. Here's just a portion of the list: Calamus, Arabesque, Cubase, Gemini, GFA Basic, LDW Power, Retouche Professional, Script II, Signum!2, That's Write, TMS Cranach, First Word Plus.

In the same booth, we also found they had done some TT conversions to a tower case. Most of these units had at least 8 megs of ram, and very large hard disks (200 megs plus!), Syquests, and of course a high speed modem mounted internally. We found a company with a PCB (printed circuit board) layout program called PCB-layout plus. This program featured a full board design, and interface to a router to actually have the board etched/built by the computer! There was at least one other company doing the same type of demonstration there, showing the ST controlling the router, and the board design in progress. Very interesting, indeed.

The gang from Atari Journal was busy showing an amazing product-software that gets beamed into your home via a satellite dish! From Channel Videodat this interface box allows you to get literally megabytes of data transferred for your computer, as a subscription offer. Truly amazing!

GE Soft Computersysteme was the first company to come out with a third party ram upgrade board for the TT. And of course, typical of third party upgrades, it has to be different from anything that the computer company manufactures. In this case, the ram board (called the Mighty Mic Profiline) breaks the 16 megabyte limit that Atari has imposed on the TT. Instead, their product will come with 4 megs, 8 megs, 16 megs, 20 megs, and a whopping 32 (that's right THIRTY TWO!) megabytes of TT ram!

From Holland came a very interesting type of disk magazine: one that is offered a shareware disk. It's called STabloid and is done by a bunch of hard core Atari fanatics. The disk is loaded with amazing demos, lots of information on how to do them. STabloid also has articles of interest to most Atari owners about current events. Chief Editor Jam Willekens is very excited about new arrangements in the US to distribute his shareware disk magazine.

The fischertechnik company also showed a Lego-like construction set, all controlled by the ST. This was quite reminiscent of the Atari ROBO Kit, put out by Atari UK and now being carried by Atari US. Fischertechnik had a miniature car wash erected, and an ST was controlling all the actions of the car wash, including moving a model car up and down the line, and rotating the brushes on the car wash. Very impressive models!

One of the great needs in presentation hardware has always been the need to interface with an overhead projector. Here in the US, N-View has a lock on the Atari market. Not so in Germany--SHARP makes and sells the

QA-75, which does a beautiful job of displaying a computer image on an overhead projector. No more trying to gather the gang around the monitor. The QA-75 makes it easy to use a computer to give classes, or just demonstrate the capabilities of your software with an ST/STE/Mega STE/TT!

The Portfolio was not to be overlooked in any of this. There was an abundance of software available for the Portfolio on a number of tables across the halls. SWIFT! is a company that is making software for the Portfolio to do banking, insurance quotes, financial operations, and stock brokerage operations! In addition, the company also has their own version of BASIC (called SWIFT! BASIC) complete with a compiler. They also have a file transfer program called SWIFT! Link ST, making file transfers painless between the ST/STE/Mega STE/TT and the Portfolio.

This show is so overwhelming, it's easy to feel that you would never be able to cover the show properly. I am sure that there are things that I have omitted in this report that others will report as very interesting events/products. I trust that this will serve as just something to give you a hint of everything that went on in Atari Messe.

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1991 MDC-RCC COMPUTER FAIR REPORT

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by Ray Perry

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On Saturday, August 31, the McDonnell Douglas Recreational Computer Club (MDC-RCC) held its fourth annual Computer Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. The Fair took place at the North County Recreation Complex, located at 2577 Redman Road on the grounds of the Veterans Memorial Park. Between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., more than 1101 people visited the show (as measured by door prize tickets). This is the largest turnout in the 4-year history of the Computer Fair, and it is particularly remarkable given the strong competition from the Labor Day weekend and the huge V.P. (Veiled Prophet) Fair in St. Louis.

The following is a list of exhibitors that were present at the Computer Fair. ("SIG" refers to an MDC-RCC hardware or software Special Interest Group.)

Apple-Related Exhibitors:  
MDC-RCC Apple SIG  
Apple Jacks (user group)

Amiga-Related Exhibitors:  
MDC-RCC Amiga SIG  
Gateway Amiga Club  
VMI Company of St. Louis

Atari-Related Exhibitors:  
MDC-RCC Atari SIG  
EAUG & STar (user groups)  
Troy & Corey Baldwin

Macintosh-Related Exhibitors:  
MDC-RCC Macintosh SIG  
Dove Computer Corporation

Randall Kopchak	
Randall's Home Computers	Texas Instruments-Related Exhibitors:
SKWare One Software	MDC-RCC Texas Instruments SIG
Kyle Cordes (CorCom)	Gateway 99'ers (user group)
Greg Kopchak	
Other Exhibitors:	Multi-Platform Exhibitors:
MDC-RCC Commodore SIG	Microsoft Corporation
MDC-RCC CP/M SIG	MDC-RCC Membership & Swap Tables
MDC-RCC IBM SIG	Granny Grinder's...Software
MDC-RCC Tandy SIG	Dale's Music
MDC-RCC Timex/Sinclair SIG	Plato Computers
	The Computer & Copier Center
	Mind's Eye Computers

The Computer Fair took place inside of a large building that also serves as an ice-skating rink during hockey season. This facility has more than 18,000 square feet of floor space and 200 Amps of 115-volt electrical power. Into this building, we placed 70 8-foot by 30-inch tables, and 140 folding wooden chairs. The tables and chairs were organized into several display areas for the various exhibitors. As I am the Director of the the MDC-RCC Atari SIG, my comments will deal primarily with the Atari exhibit. However, I will also mention some other items of general interest.

The Atari display area consisted of 10 tables, which I arranged into two back-to-back arcs, vaguely reminiscent of the Atari fuji logo. At the apex of this pseudo-fuji, one of four large Atari banners hung from the ends of two parallel tables. A 20" TV/VCR sat above the banner, facing outward toward the center of the building. This TV was used to show Antic's "Cybermation" video, Troy Baldwin's video effects demo, and an ST games video prepared by Jeff Randall. Behind the TV, a network of 5 STs were running the ever-popular MIDI MAZE.

On the right side of the fuji (as viewed from the TV), the next table after the MIDI MAZE cluster was occupied by Kelly Webb, owner of SKWare One software. Kelly was using two ST systems (color and mono) to show and sell his Seurat, Colorscan, and Autoart programs (I bought Colorscan myself). Kelly reported unexpectedly brisk sales, which exceeded his revenues from the recent all-Atari MIST show. Next to Kelly was Jeff Randall, of Randall's Home Computers. Jeff used his Mega STe demonstrator and an Atari SLM804 laser printer (donated by Jay Jones) to demo Calamus and other programs available at his store. For more information, visit Randall's Home Computers at 6166 Howdershell Road, in Hazelwood, MO 63042, (314) 895-8862. (<-- free plug!)

Next to Randall's was the Eastside Atari User Group (EAUG) table. Hank Vize, Dave Pintar, and Tom Guelker used two STs to demonstrate Pagestream 2.1, VIDDI ST & RGB, Maxifile, Hotwire, and my StereoTek 3-D glasses. The Baldwin brothers (Troy and Corey) were located next to EAUG. Corey demonstrated several Macintosh programs running via Spectre GCR, and also showed ST software like Neodesk and Pagestream. Troy used his JRI Genlock-equipped Mega ST4 and a Video camera to do realtime mixing of Cyber animations over live video of the audience. He also showed some weird VIDDI ST special effects.

One the other side of the fuji, the first table after the MIDI ring was occupied jointly by Kyle Cordes (of CorCom) and Greg Kopchak. Greg demonstrated his It's All Relative (genealogy) and Forecaster III (meteorology) programs for the ST, and also showed a beta version of



It's All Relative running on a PC clone. Kyle demonstrated his Abbreviator ST abbreviation-expansion program. Next to Greg and Kyle was Randall Kopchak, demonstrating ST MIDI capabilities with a Kawai Klm sound module and a sequencing program. The last two tables were occupied by members of the ST Atari Resource club (STar) from Illinois. Craig Carter and Ray Stiles used 2 Mega STes to demonstrate various things, including IBM emulation with the Supercharger, and Mac emulation via the Spectre GCR. An ST/STe (I can't remember which) was also used to show/sell public domain disks, including Lexicor animation demos.

As recently as a couple of weeks ago, I was still expecting Softlogik, the St. Louis-based developers of the Pagestream DTP program, to come to the Fair. They had sent me an application and said they would be bringing an Atari TT/030, an Amiga 3000, and a laser printer to demonstrate Pagestream. However, when I didn't receive their \$25 table fee, I grew concerned and called the company. Apparently, they had just discovered the calendar and realized that they didn't have anyone available on Labor Day weekend. (Needless to say, I was more than a little PO'ed that I had to call THEM to find this out.)

In spite of the SoftLogik cancellation, and the lack of any kind of support from Sunnyvale, Atari was very well-represented at the Fair. With a total of about 19 STs and STes running, I think there were more Ataris there than any other brand of computer. And, in addition to the Atari banner at the front of our display area, there was another one hanging on a big step ladder behind the display, and two more in front of the STar tables. Thanks to all the people I mentioned above (and anyone else I forgot), I think we proved that Atari is still alive and kicking in the personal computer marketplace. Thanks are also in order for Nathan Potechin of ISD, who sent us some DynaCADD and Outline Art brochures. I hope he can come in person to next year's show.

If Atari was the most common brand of computer at the Fair, you may be wondering who held second place. No, it wasn't one of the "Big Two" (IBM and Macintosh), it was the Commodore Amiga. MDC-RCC Amiga SIG director Dave Bostic did an excellent job in putting together a coalition of vendors and user groups to show off the Amiga's sound and graphics capabilities. VMI and Plato were both demonstrating the impressive NewTek Video Toaster device for the Amiga. Plato had the biggest single-vendor display at the show, with 8 tables, a book rack, their own cash register, and a U-Haul full of merchandise. I think they sold a lot of stuff.

Despite its significant market share (second only to IBM), Macintosh had a relatively small presence at the Fair. This was primarily due to a lack of support from area Mac vendors. The Bottom Line Computers, Inc. was supposed to come to the show, but they cancelled at the last minute, forfeiting their table deposit. Fortunately, the Mac SIG was able to borrow a Mac Classic and a Mac IIfx from St. Louis-based Forsythe Computers. But Forsythe had removed everything but the System folder from the fx's hard drive, so this \$9,000 machine was reduced to running demos and playing blackjack. It was pretty underwhelming.

There were two vendors displaying Macintosh computers at the Fair. Dale's Music was using a Mac and a PC clone to control some synthesizers, and Jill Middendorf, of Dove Computer Corporation was using her SE/30 to demonstrate a Dove Fax/modem. That may not sound like an exciting display, but what it lacked in quantity, it more than made up for in quality (Jill is quite striking). There was no shortage of volunteers ready to help carry her equipment.

In addition to my duties as Atari SIG director, I was also the principal Fair organizer and Master of Ceremonies. In this capacity, I was responsible for handing out the valuable door prizes donated by vendors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed, especially those who could not attend. Ironically, our two biggest prizes came from vendors in this category. Cedar Computer has always been very supportive of our shows, and they continued the tradition this year. They gave us an \$849 HP QuietJet Plus printer and a stack of mouse pads, just for mentioning their name. Similarly, Ashton-Tate donated a brand-new copy of dBase IV, in absentia. Other donations included Jetfighter II and Links (courtesy of Mind's Eye), and DR DOS 5.0 (courtesy of The Computer and Copier Center). Several vendors also donated gift certificates (~\$10-\$25 value).

Well, that's about all I have to say about the Computer Fair. Overall, I think it went quite well, and I believe the concept of an off-site show has been vindicated (all previous Fairs were held on MDC property, where sales & cameras were forbidden). The only really bad thing was the temperature: due to a Freon leak, the air conditioner wasn't working properly, and it must have been about 95 degrees in there! Fortunately, the snack bar was open, and they had a run on snow cones.

Ray Perry  
MDC-RCC Atari SIG Director  
GENie address: R.PERRY6

P.S. I used ComputerEyes and DigiSpec to digitize some Atari-related images from my video tape of the show. These "smooshed" Spectrum-format pictures may be found in the archive RCC\_PICS.LZH in the Atari ST roundtable on GENie, and on the Pub II BBS in St. Louis. Extract using UNLZH14.PRG or equivalent, and view with SPSLIDEX.PRG or equivalent. Enjoy!

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GRAMMER EXPERT

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Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: 1 September 1991

For further information contact:

Phil Comeau Software  
43 Rueter St.  
Nepean, Ontario Canada K2J 3Z9  
(613) 825-6271

GENie: P.COMEAU1      CIS: 72060,3056

OTTAWA, CANADA -- Phil Comeau Software announces the release of a new software product called "Grammar Expert," a computerized reference for English grammar and writing.

Grammar Expert is a complete and practical source of information for

writers, the company said. The program has been designed to quickly answer questions on grammar and effective writing. The program focuses on practical advice for writers and avoids long lists of academic rules, the company said. Grammar Expert provides guidelines and advice on topics such as the use of commas and other punctuation marks; subject and verb agreement; abbreviations; possessive nouns and pronouns; sentence structure; distinctions between often-confused words such as "who" or "whom," "like" or "as," and "that" or "which"; and effective writing. A highlight of the program, the company said, is a special section devoted to organizing and writing effective letters. Sample letters for a variety of business-related purposes are included with the program.

The company has initially released Grammar Expert for Atari's line of 16- and 32-bit computers, such as the 1040ST and TT/030. The company plans to release the program for other computers, such as the Apple Macintosh and IBM PC compatibles, in mid-to-late 1992.

The program is designed to run "in the background," so it can be used even while another program, such as a word-processing or desktop-publishing program, is running. The company said that making Grammar Expert easy to access from a word-processing program was a key consideration in its design, since many writers compose while they type text into a word processor. On the Atari computers, the "background" capability is achieved using the GEM operating system's "desk accessory" feature, which allows the user to invoke and interact with one program while another program is running. The company plans to also use the "desk accessory" feature on the Macintosh.

Grammar Expert is organized like a reference book, the company said, with information presented in pages. Like a book, the program has a table of contents and an index. Typically, a writer would locate the topic of interest in the table of contents or index, then simply click the mouse over the topic's entry. Instantly, the program would display the selected page.

Pages displayed by Grammar Expert often have certain terms highlighted. These highlighted terms are links to other pages, the company explained. By clicking the mouse over a highlighted term, the user can read detailed information about the term. For example, one Grammar Expert page may state that a conjunction joins two clauses. The words "conjunction" and "clauses" are highlighted. A user who isn't sure of what a clause is need only click the mouse over "clauses," and Grammar Expert will display a page which defines the term and gives examples. The page describing "clauses" may itself contain other highlighted terms which the user can click on in a similar way. This method of presenting information by linking related facts is called "hypertext," the company said.

Grammar Expert complements "The GramSlam Grammar and Style Checker," the other grammar-related product in the company's line. GramSlam and Grammar Expert are "two sides of the same coin," the company said. Grammar Expert is described as a constructive tool; it aids writers during the creative process, from first draft to final report.

Press Release

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Missionware Software (...software with a mission...) now has a >>>  
DeskJet 500 <<< text printer driver available for:

\*\*\* Printer Initializer \*\*\*

This text driver was written by Bob Carpenter for Missionware Software and has been fully tested with a DeskJet 500. Look for it on this BBS as file "DJ500.PDT" (It's a very short file and therefore not compressed.)

What \*is\* Printer Initializer? It's the "Ultimate" printer control accessory developed by Missionware Software to help \*you\* better control your printers. With it, you can create your own text drivers!

~ Completely user customizable (but comes standard with drivers for Epson, Diconix and now DeskJet printers.)

~ Controls any printer on either the serial or parallel port...

~ Permits control of up to 6 printers from 1 desk accessory slot...

~ Works with any GEM program...

~ Permits you to easily and conveniently send commands to your printer for selecting fonts, styles, pitch and point sizes, type output, line feeds, carriage returns, line spacings; in essence, you can easily control \*anything\* your printer can do from this one program without having to embed control codes in the host program!

~ The program comes with a special install program that creates the drivers and a desk accessory that later users the drivers for printer control.

~ The programs work in either color or monochrome...

~ The desk accessory is fully compatible with MultiDesk (Copyright CodeHead Software)...

~ Our programs are not copy protected (they are serialized and personalized!) and are installable on your hard disk...

~ The program, with the DJ500 driver, is now available for \$24.95 direct from Missionware Software or your favorite dealer. If not in stock, have your dealer order from Pacific Software Supply, our number one distributor.

~ If you don't own an Epson or Diconix or DeskJet, you can still create your own drivers for whatever type of printer you have. Missionware will also help you create a driver for free. Just contact us directly either via the mail or on-line.

Our address is:       Missionware Software  
                      354 N. Winston Drive  
                      Palatine, IL   60067-4132

Personal checks, money orders and bank checks are acceptable.

If you'd like to contact us online, we're on BIX (jtrautschold), CIS (73250,572) and GENie (J.TRAUTSCHOL). We also have demos available on all 3 services. Look for the file PRT\_INIT.ARC for a fully functional driver install demo and tutorial (save function is disabled and the desk accessory is not included.) On GENie, the file number is 19019.

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Z\*NET ATARIWATCH 1991 CALENDAR

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September 7

The Bridgeport Connecticut Atarifest at the Bridgeport Hilton. Bob Brodie, Gribnif Software and others are expected to be on hand. This event will be a one day show.

September 14-15

The Southern California ATARI Computer Faire, Version 5.0, also known as THE GLENDALE SHOW has been confirmed for September 14 and 15, 1991. Contact: H.A.C.K.S., 249 N. Brand Bl. #321, Glendale, CA 91203, or call John King Tarpinian, Faire Chairperson, 818-246-7286.

October 12-13

WAACE AtariFest '91, Sheraton Reston Hotel, Washington D.C./Virginia, contact J.D.BARNES, 7710 Chatham Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

October 21-25

Fall COMDEX Las Vegas Nevada

November 23-24

Chicago Atari Computer Show BY ATARI. Contact Larry Grauzas, P.O. Box 8788, Waukegan, IL 60079-8788, phone 708-566-0671. Administred by the Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts (LCACE).

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DC PROGRAMS OF THE WEEK (POW)

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Announcement

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In February 1991, Double Click Software announced a remarkable feat to occur: we would write one freeware program each week for one year.

Generally, the response to this concept has been nothing short of excellent. We thank each and every downloader.

Some people, however, have used our freeware programs as an excuse to not donate for shareware programs.

Recently a shareware author told us that several customers had told this author that they "would not pay the shareware fee requested, because

Double Click Software would just write the program next week."

For the record, Double Click Software strongly (very strongly) recommends the continued support of shareware authors. We originally started writing the program of the week to show our strong commitment towards supporting our original shareware contributors. Without shareware contributions, we would not have been able to make Double Click Software a viable company.

Please contribute to shareware authors if you use their program!

Our program of the week is very specific:

- 1) Programs must be ONE and ONLY ONE feature.
- 2) Programs must take 2-4 hours to write.
- 3) We will avoid at all cost rehashing a program already done.
- 4) We will not write a program which competes against a commercial or shareware program.

If you are using our program of the week as an excuse to not contribute to a shareware author, then you have entirely missed the intent of why we started doing this.

We actually started this ambitious plan back in October 1990, but only made it public in 1991.

On October 18, 1991 we will upload our final program of the week for 1991.

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CD-ROM FOR THE ATARI: INTRODUCING THE CDAR504

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by Jon Clarke

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The following is reprinted from the September 1991 issue of ATARIUSER MAGAZINE by permission of Quill Publishing. It may NOT be further reprinted except by specific permission of Quill. Call 818-332-0372 or write AtariUser at 113 West College Street, Covina, CA 91723, or call 800-333-3567 for subscriptions.

CD-ROM? You have all heard about them, maybe even read a little about these devices. A CD-ROM is a Compact Disc player like you may have in your stereo, but designed for a computer. Compact Disc ROM is "Read Only Media" (not "Memory"). You can read but not write or save to the optical disks.

CD's are massive storage devices. Atari's players (the CDAR504 and its replacement, the CDAR505) read disks with up to five hundred and fifty megabytes of data. That's over 600 floppy diskettes on one little five and a quarter inch piece of aluminum! Speed of data transfer is about half that of a hard drive, far faster than from floppies.

Imagine plugging in a CD-ROM reader into your STe and playing a fantasy game that not only has sound, but video-like role playing on it. This exists now--it's called "Golden Immortal" and it was mastered in the

same way an audio CD would be, some two and a half years ago by a firm in New Mexico called Whitestar Mageware. These days, it can be seen running on the IBM, as there were not a lot of Atari's CDAR504's out there at the time--not that there are now!

But games are only one option for this player. In my case, I use two CDAR504's on our BBS (in New Zealand) for our "files" area. For you Sysops out there, I recommend you take the time to investigate purchasing a CDAR504 or CDAR505 for you BBS. We have over one Gigabyte of data for our users to download and use as they see fit. Just pop in a new disk anytime we want more variety.

But it's not that simple to find the right CD. You will have to ask the following question: Is the CD in High Sierra MAY '86, ISO9660 or in some other custom format? Do you have the MetaDos driver for it? Is it designed for the Atari, IBM, MAC, UNIX or other machines? Does it matter what machine it is for if you have the right driver for it?

To run on your Atari ST, you will require an Atari CD-ROM player, specifically, a CDAR504 or CDAR505. To run programs from a CD on the Atari will require Atari specific software on the Compact Disc (several are available). However if you are running a BBS, you can get just about any breed of CD ROM for your player and transfer files without problems.

MetaDos?? Metados is the driver software for the CD-ROM from Atari, using (surprise) the standard disk formats, such as they are today. It attaches to the ST operating system to access "disk drives" above and beyond your hard disk and into the CD- ROM.

You can also do several other interesting things with the software drivers as well as the CD-ROM player. As I am typing this I am listening to Dire Straits for the eight thousandth time, through my CDAR504. It has is a full infra red remote control, or it can be completely controlled though a desk accessory on the computer, even in audio mode.

There hundreds of disks that you can use on the Atari CD-ROM player. The USA government puts out a catalog of disks each year along with distributors world wide. A few of the more interesting disk we use on a day to day basis that are designed for the Atari ST include the Current Notes CD-ROM, the ST Software Library Clip Art Disk, and The Golden Immortal. Other IBM and MAC based CD-ROMS in either the ISO or Sierra formats will read just fine, as long as it is text. Any software on them will not be understood by the ST. I don't really know how they would fare under IBM emulation, but I have been told that the MAC emulators won't (yet?) read the MAC CD's through the ST.

Atari announced its CDAR504 CD-ROM player several years ago, but then decided to delay its release until it could be sold for "under \$500." A number of units were built and distributed to developers, but little more has happened. Some were sold overseas, and a few ST titles were released on CD. Then in March 1991, Atari announced a new unit to replace the CDAR504. The new CDAR505 was much smaller and is to be sold for \$399--even below the target price that Atari was waiting for. Some sources say Atari is still hopeful for a 1991 release of the long awaited device.

A number of Atari software CD's are expected once (if?) the CDAR505 gets a general release. They include a comprehensive PD and graphics library

from Z\*NET, more clip-art disks, and Atari's own SOFTSOURCE disk. This last disk is to include operable demos of hundreds of Atari applications, utilities, and games, as well as a complete catalog of "every Atari program available." The Softsource disk is to be (eventually) available to every dealer and user group.

The Atari CDAR504 has been discontinued even before real introduction, and replaced by the also unavailable CDAR505. While the 504 was a large unit with a footprint a little smaller than a Megafloppy or Mega ST, the 505 is about the size and appearance of an external floppy drive. The 504 had a full remote control, while the 505 has none at all, except for an EJECT button and a headphone volume control. The new unit must be entirely operated from the computer. Both CD players have Atari ACSI ports, otherwise known as DMA IN and DMA OUT. In the newer CDAR505 is a full SCSI adaptor. This means the CDAR504 is for the Atari ST/TT/STe series of computers only, while the CDAR505 will work with these and any other computers that work with SCSI devices. This versatility might help build the market viability of the player.

[Editors Note: See the latest information on the CDAR505 in the Newswire in this week's issue.]

BIO: Jon Clarke globe-trots from his New Zealand home, working for an international bank. His heavy Atari involvements keep him in touch with the US community through GENie telecommunication service and Z\*NET.

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THE SALES-PRO SYSTEM

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Press Release

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REVISION 6.00 of The SALES-PRO System

August 20, 1991

Hi-Tech Advisers is proud to announce the immediate availability of our NEW VERSION 6.00 of the popular Sales-Pro Point-of-Sale/Inventory Control Software System. This new version is available for PC's, PC LAN's and Atari TOS Computers. Updates are available for current program users.

Just a few of the Many New Features found in Version 6.00:

- \* The General Ledger Module #5 is Now Totally Integrated.
- \* Many New features have been added to the Accounts Payable Module #4.
- \* 3 Separate Sales Tax Levels are now supported throughout the software.
- \* Taxable or Non-Taxable can now be specified on each Customer Record.
- \* Taxable or Non-Taxable can now be specified on each Inventory Record.
- \* Now you can Assign Percentage Discount Rates to Each Customer Record.
- \* Archive Library Files have been added for Quicker Access to All Files.
- \* Profit Percentages have been added to the End-of-Day/Period Reports.
- \* Now you can Add New Inventory Items While Posting to Existing Items.
- \* Minimum Payments may be specified by percentage for Receivable Balances.
- \* Inventory Explosion Module #7 has been improved and updated.



- \* Service Center Module #8 has been improved and updated.
- \* 2 New Utilities have been added to Accessory #2 Utilities.
- \* MANY New Default Settings have been added for Even More Flexibility.
- \* More File and Disk Checking has been added to keep your data reliable.
- \* Cash Drawer Support has been made more flexible with more defaults.
- \* Abort During List Printing is now available on most lists.
- \* Deleted Inventory Items or Customers are now available on lists.
- \* New cosmetic and other improvements for functionality have been added.
- \* Many speed enhancements are included throughout this new version.
- \* The UPS C.O.D. Labels from Acc. #4 are now linked with the Customer File.
- \* New, More Informative Error Trapping and Recovery System.
- \* Use Your Own Invoice Numbers or have the system automatically generate the transaction numbers. This is available on Single User Systems Only.
- \* ON PC COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS you can now specify a different parallel printer port for your transactions, labels, etc.

Contact your local dealer, consultant or Hi-Tech Advisers today for more information.

TO ORDER CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-882-4310  
FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S. CALL 813-294-1885

For Technical Support Call (813)293-3986  
For More Information Call (813)294-1885  
24 Hour FAX Line (813)325-0375

Updates are being shipped to all current Auto-Update Subscribers Now!

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AUA ANTI-PIRACY UPDATE

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by Derek Signorini

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When Tony Parry and I discussed the now 3 week old "AUA ANTI-PIRACY MOVEMENT 1991" while on the golf course, neither of us expected the overwhelming response that we have received to date. Atari enthusiasts from all over the world have opened their eyes to this plaguing issue. Many thanks to Z\*NET for helping us in this drive to distribute our letter and thoughts to the masses.

In this third week of the campaign, we have found it necessary to make an amendment to our original letter. Many thanks to Bob Brodie, Director of Communications at Atari, for his support and guidance of this Anti-piracy movement. Bob contacted us on GENIE to suggest that our letters be addressed not only to the IAAD and Atari, but directly to him. In response to his suggestion, we have done this and present a second draft of our original letter.

If you have sent in your letter to Atari already, don't worry. Your voice will be heard nonetheless. By adding Mr. Brodie as a recipient to your letter, we are streamlining our target and avoiding the bureaucratic middle man. If you have not sent your letter, now is the time to do so, as this massive anti-piracy statement is gaining more and

more momentum!!

Please feel free to contact the AUA via the following routes:

US MAIL: The Atari Users Association  
P.O. Box 123  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

PHONE: 412-745-8930

EMAIL: GENIE -- DC.SIGNORINI  
CIS -- 72327,1060  
FNET -- Node #19 or via the AUA Crossnet

Thank you all again for your support. YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

=====CUT HERE=====

IAAD  
c/o Atari Corporation  
ATTN: Bob Brodie, Dir. of Communications  
1196 Borregas Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3427

Dear Sirs,

I have seen ASCII captures of some of the pirate activities that have been occurring on Atari ST BBS systems and would like to express that I am both appalled and angry that such illegal activity is going on.

While I realize that my voice is but a small one in a very large crowd, I believe that there is something that I can do to help put a stop to this crime.

I am completely against any form of software piracy and wish to help in the fight to stop it all together and believe that it is time for Atari Corporation with the help of the IAAD, AUA, IADA, and SPA to bring these offenders to trial.

Please give consideration to a multi-party united stance against software piracy at once! There are too many talented developers leaving the Atari ST platform because money is literally being stolen from their pockets. I believe that by combining forces, we can begin to curb software piracy and help the developers receive adequate compensation for their hard work.

If there is anything that I can do as an individual, please let me know.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME HERE  
Member of the AUA

=====CUT HERE=====

I encourage you to print this letter, sign it, and get it in the mail to Atari as soon as possible. If I could make it easier for you to do or pay for your stamp, I would! But your twenty-nine cents can make a difference!

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GENIE

To sign up for GENie service, call (with modem) 800-638-8369. Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that). Wait for the U#= prompt. Type XJM11877,GENie and hit RETURN.

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COMPUSERVE

To sign up for CompuServe service, call 800-848-8199. Ask for operator 198. You will be sent a \$15.00 free membership kit.

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